

a1 cont is isolated from a plant selected from the Labiatae family, the *Scutellaria baicalensis* species.

a2 sub B2 4. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said Free-B-Ring flavonoid or mixtures thereof are isolated from a plant part of said plant.

a3 7. (amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the plant part is selected from the group consisting of stems, stem barks, twigs, tubers, roots, root barks, young shoots, seeds, rhizomes, flowers and other reproductive organs, leaves and other aerial parts.

sub B3 19. (new) A method for inhibiting the cyclooxygenase enzyme COX-2 comprising administering a composition comprising a Free-B-Ring flavonoid or a composition containing a mixture of Free-B-Ring flavonoids; wherein said composition is isolated from a plant selected from the Labiatae family, the *Scutellaria* genus and the *Scutellaria baicalensis* species and wherein said inhibition results in reduced inflammation conditions and symptoms.

a4 20. (new) The method of claim 19 wherein said Free-B-Ring flavonoid or mixtures thereof are isolated from a plant part of said plant.

21. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the plant part is selected from the group consisting of stems, stem barks, twigs, tubers, roots, root barks, young shoots, seeds, rhizomes, flowers and other reproductive organs, leaves and other aerial parts.

add B4 Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121

An election requirement was made to pending claims 1-18. The claims were placed into two groups: Group I (claims 1-7) drawn to a method for inhibiting COX-2 and Group II (claims 8-18) drawn to a method for preventing and treating COX-2 mediated diseases. In response to this restriction/election requirement Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I (claims 1-7) without traverse.